THEY CAME HOME WITH SOME EXTRA BAGGAGE

VACATION FRIENDS
Production Information

In this raw and raunchy comedy, straightlaced Marcus and Emily (Lil Rel Howery, Yvonne Orji) are befriended by wild, thrill-seeking partiers Ron and Kyla (John Cena, Meredith Hagner) at a resort in Mexico. Living in the moment, the usually level-headed couple lets loose to enjoy a week of uninhibited fun and debauchery with their new "vacation friends." Months after their walk on the wild side, Marcus and Emily are horrified when Ron and Kyla show up uninvited at their wedding, creating chaos and proving that what happens on vacation, doesn't necessarily stay on vacation.

From 20th Century Studios, "Vacation Friends" stars John Cena ("F9," "The Suicide Squad"), Lil Rel Howery ("Get Out," "Judas and the Black Messiah"), Yvonne Orji ("Insecure," "Night School"), Meredith Hagner ("Search Party," "Palm Springs"), Robert Wisdom ("The Alienist," "Ballers"), Andrew Bachelor ("The Babysitter," "Holidate") and Lynn Whitfield ("Greenleaf," "Madea's Family Reunion"). Directed by Clay Tarver ("Silicon Valley"), it was written by Tom Mullen & Tim Mullen and Clay Tarver and Jonathan Goldstein & John Francis Daley. Produced by Todd Garner, p.g.a. ("Tag," "Playing with Fire") and Timothy M. Bourne, p.g.a. ("Love, Simon," "The Hate U Give"), the executive producers are Steve Pink and Sean Robins.

"Vacation Friends" is 20th Century Studios' first film to have a global release on the Hulu and Disney+ streaming platforms. It will stream globally as a Hulu Original in the U.S. and a Star Original on Disney+ in select international markets. The film will also be available in Latin America as part of the new Star+ direct-to-consumer service launching on August 31st in the region.

What exactly are "vacation friends?" Vacation friends are people you meet and spend time with on vacation. Chances are, they're not necessarily people you would choose to be friends with if you met them in the course of your real lives, through work or school or in your neighborhood. They're more the kind of people you meet when you're just winging it and not taking anything seriously and in the frame of mind just to have a good time. And because of this, it's possible that you might be willing to behave a little differently when you're around them than you normally would with your regular friends and family. After all, you're on vacation, loosened up and probably never going to see them again, right?

That's the premise of the wild new comedy "Vacation Friends," something we've all experienced before and therefore can relate to.

But what happens when these "vacation friends" that you haven't been in touch with or even thought about for months, suddenly show up in your non-vacation lives?

That's the predicament Marcus and Emily find themselves in, when Ron and Kyla appear out of nowhere at their destination wedding, literally crashing the gate and ready to resume the fun and games they started after witnessing Marcus' proposal to Emily in Mexico the previous year.

"It's about that kind of superficial friendship that actually goes way farther than you expect," says writer/director Clay Tarver, who makes his feature directorial debut with "Vacation Friends." So they show up and cause all kinds of problems. But they end up sort of being good for them. It was one of those premises that could have been from the forties or from the seventies or any time. Like 'Meet the Parents," they're evergreen."

"I've been developing 'Vacation Friends' for years. I thought everybody's had a vacation friend. Everybody's been in that situation where they've gone on vacation, met somebody, come out of their comfort zone and felt like they were probably the best version of themselves. And then they come back to their lives and kind of put that aside. And I thought, that's a fun idea to have that comes to catch up with you."

Says producer Timothy M. Bourne, "I got involved after Todd Garner had gotten it to the studio. I had a relationship with that studio, and they came to me and asked me for a production plan, and what my thoughts were."

Clay Tarver, who was an executive producer on "Silicon Valley," had already been chosen to direct, having first been brought on as a writer and impressed Garner and the studio with his handle on the material and voice for the characters.

Garner had worked with John Cena on the 2019 family comedy "Playing with Fire," and thought he'd be perfect for Ron, whose "live for the moment" attitude comes from his history as a member of the Special Forces.

Says Cena about his character, "Ron is a free spirit, chasing excitement, chasing adventure. And really in tune with his values. And I think that's awesome. Like he absolutely knows who he is and he absolutely knows who he's not."

Cena continues, "Ron is an ex-special forces Green Beret who's seen some time in action. Green Berets operate under a very specific set of circumstances--a lot of deep intelligence, a lot of counterintelligence. They're extremely sharp and extremely resourceful which is why I think his attitude of just float, relying on his skill set to bring him to the correct path really dictates his operation in the movie."

"Ron has a unique set of a bunch of special skills," adds Cena. "He's not only a Green Beret, he's a forest ranger. He's also a world traveler. He seems like a renaissance man. But he's this crazy loose cannon, and I think that even adds to his ability to be a renaissance man. And it really gets the four main characters into trouble. But it also gets them out of trouble. So he's gifting them life experience."

Of Cena, Garner says, “He embodies everything that Ron is. What’s great about John is, he is the guy you see. He wears his heart on his sleeve. He’s a very good person. He’s obviously a crazy specimen of a human and a free spirit. Somebody who calls it like it is. He’s very forthright and truthful and also very physically imposing.”

Adds Tarver, “John really is gifted. He has just got a super sharp mind, listens. He’s the best guy.”

To play Marcus, who plans this elaborate vacation to propose to his girlfriend Emily and is forced out of his comfort zone by their new friends, the filmmakers chose comedian-actor Lil Rel Howery, whose breakout role in Jordan Peele’s “Get Out” catapulted him to movie stardom.

Tarver describes Marcus as “a real self-made man who’s from Chicago and owns a construction firm. He's from Chicago. He’s a little bit anal, a little bit uptight, a tough guy from the neighborhood, but kind of a nerd. He's marrying above his station and needs to learn how to how to deal with that, he has some insecurities and overcompensates in certain ways.”

“When I first met with Rel,” Tarver recalls, “ I told him that seems to me like what you're like, a real guy from the hood but also funny and kind of a nerd. And he was like ‘yep.’”

Says Howery, “I’ve been a confident nerd a long time, but I’m definitely cooler than Marcus. What I like about Marcus is, and what makes him interesting for me is that he's a dude that has his own business, a construction company. He's got all these amazing things. Marcus is very focused and in love with his fiancee. He's a stiff guy who hasn't ever really let his hair down.”

He continues, “What you're gonna see throughout the movie is him kinda loosen up. And that's what made Marcus really dope. But because of what happens and everything on this vacation, he ends up letting his hair down a little bit.”

Garner says, “Marcus is for all intents and purposes the guy who needs the most love. And he learns the most throughout the movie.”

Howery was impressed by the human factor. He says, “I think that's one of the things that's smart about this. Like some of the events we do in the movie for the wedding. Things like that, it's stuff you don't normally see black people doing. And I think that's what I love about this movie, it's more or less about humanizing everybody.”

He continues, “I think that's the cool thing we did with this more than anything. I like the fact that it's just a human story, and we just happen to be black. That's what I love. I don't think there's a social message. It’s just a human story with people of color. We made everybody human in this story, and I think that's what's dope about it.”

Of Howery, Garner says, “He’s a great reaction actor and an incredibly smart and astute comic. And the way that he plays off people and how he can react to different situations is like no other actor I’ve worked with. So he was the perfect guy to throw John and Meredith in his face and have him have to react to it.”

Reacting is one of the things that attracted Howery to the character. He says, “I like playing really irritated people, like all of Marcus’ reactions. I love his facial reactions to what somebody's saying, what's happening.”

A big wrestling fan, Howery enjoyed playing opposite Cena. He says about Cena, “He actually really loves what he does. And I think just working with somebody else who loves what they do and is so passionate about it, it made it easy for us to play. I love the fact that John was open to trying things, having fun with it and whatever. Even if it was the silliest thing, he did it. So hopefully we can be Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor.”

Howery feels this is the right time for this film. “Because of the way everything is going on in the world, it's like an escape. One of the things I think comedies are missing is just being straight up funny. And this is just really a straight up funny movie. And laughter is so important right now. I think laughter is just good for the soul. I think people are really gonna enjoy it.”

Yvonne Orji, who portrays Molly Carter on HBO’s hit series, “Insecure,” plays Marcus’ girlfriend-turned-fiancee Emily. A lawyer, Emily is adept at dealing with people and shifting her personality to whomever she’s with.

Says Orji, “Emily tries to play it safe. She’s for sure a daddy’s girl. She loves Marcus and wants her family and him to get along. Marcus has a different opinion about her side of the family, as he’s a blue-collar kinda guy and her family is well-to-do.”

She continues,“Emily’’s a little less uptight than Marcus, so when she meets the vacation friends, she’s a little more open to kickin’ it with them, even though she wonders ‘What’s this all about?’ But she likes them and hopes that they can help Marcus let his hair down a bit.”

Garner describes Orji as “beautiful and smart and has a presence to her. In the movie, Marcus, underestimates her character, Emily, but she has a strength to her and is always trying to bring his insecurities to the forefront so they can deal with them and put them to bed. Yvonne’s great at being such a strong presence on film.”

Describing the film as “zany, fun and heartwarming,” Orji was attracted to the “feel-good story” and the prospect of working again with Howery, whom she knew from the comedy world and “Insecure,” and the chance to work with Cena, whom she calls “an absolute professional.”

Of Cena, she says,”he gets in there and gets the job done, and keeps it fun, lively and light for everyone.”

“Yvonne is such a good actress, and she has this inherent glamour and radiance about her,” says Tarver. “She just might be the most photogenic human being I've ever seen in my life. She is also funny as hell. She brought so much to the part.”

Ron’s free-spirited wife Kyla is played by Meredith Hagner, best known for her role as Portia on the HBO Max series “Search Party.”

Hagner describes Kyla as “the human equivalent of a labrador retriever. She just really wants to have a blast all the time.”

Garner says, “Meredith is an amazing actress. She is just a breath of fresh air. Every time she comes on the set, she’s a light. And that’s who Kyla is. Just a wonderful person who doesn’t really have a lot of concerns with what the world thinks about her. But she just has this infectious kind of fun and is totally down for anything, getting in trouble, getting in too much trouble, getting dangerously in trouble, but always seems to come out of it on the other side.”

Cena calls Hanger’s comic timing “unreal,” and Orji says, “she’s just a sweetheart.”

Of the four leads, Bourne says, “They sort of all feed off of each other and they're each funny in their own way, and they bring that very dynamically to the screen. They played well against each other, and I think they all fit their characters pretty much to a ‘T" which comes through. They're all basically comedians, so, it was a lot of fun.”

They all got along famously.

Cena says, “Working with Yvonne, Rel and Meredith was awesome, extremely special. A really fun group to work with.”

To support the four leads, the filmmakers chose a talented group of actors including Robert Wisdom, as Emily’s father Harold, who doesn’t think Marcus is good enough for Emily; Andrew (“King Bach”) Bachelor as Emily’s brother Gabe, who hates Marcus after Marcus threw a punch at him, and Emmy® award-winner Lynn Whitfield as Emily’s mother Suzanne. Chuck Cooper and Anna Marie Horsford appear as Marcus’ parents, Larry and Nancy.

Tarver says, “I can't believe how grateful I feel right now for having had such a completely utterly kick ass cast.”

The filmmakers assembled an expert line-up of below-the-line talent, including Director of Photography Tim Suhrstedt, ASC, who had worked with Tarver on “Silicon Valley” and shot such features as “Little Miss Sunshine,” “The Wedding Singer” and “All About Steve”; Production Designer Aaron Osborne, whose recent work includes “Love, Simon and the Hulu series “Looking for Alaska” and “Runaways”; Film Editor Evan Henke, whose feature editing credits include “Long Shot” and “Office Christmas Party”; Music Composer/Conductor Rolfe Kent, who composed the scores for such films as “Legally Blonde” I and 2, “Mean Girls,” “Up in the Air”

and “Downsizing”; and Costume Designer Salvador Perez, who designed the costumes for the three “Pitch Perfect” features and the series “The Mindy Project,” “Champions,” “Four Weddings and a Funeral” and “Never Have I Ever.”.

The production filmed for eight days in Puerto Rico before shutting down for six months due to the COVID pandemic, then resumed production in Atlanta for the balance of the shoot.

ABOUT THE CAST

JOHN CENA (Ron) is an actor, producer, entrepreneur, author, philanthropist and WWE superstar.

This summer, John starred as Jakob Toretto in Justin Lin’s “F9: The Fast Saga” for Universal Pictures, Hollywood’s #1 pandemic release with a $643M+ global box office. He also starred as Peacemaker in James Gunn’s “The Suicide Squad” for Warner Brothers, which was released on August 6, 2021. He will return to his DC character in the upcoming “Peacemaker” series for HBO Max, for which Gunn wrote all eight episodes and directed several episodes.

John recently played Yoshi the polar bear in Stephen Gaghan’s “The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle” for Universal Pictures starring Robert Downey Jr. John headlined the family comedy “Playing with Fire” for Paramount. He starred as the antagonist in the “Transformers” spinoff “Bumblebee” for Paramount, which grossed $470 million worldwide. He also starred in Universal’s critical hit “Blockers” alongside Leslie Mann and Ike Barinholtz, which grossed $93 million worldwide. Before that, John was seen in “The Wall,” “Sisters” alongside Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, the “Daddy’s Home” franchise alongside Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg, and Universal’s hit comedy “Trainwreck” opposite Amy Schumer and directed by Judd Apatow. In animation, John has voiced the title role of Ferdinand the Bull in “Ferdinand,” the Oscar® nominated film based on the iconic children’s book, released Christmas 2017.

John currently hosts “Wipeout” on TBS, which premiered as 2021’s highest-rated new unscripted cable series, alongside Nicole Byer. He has also hosted “Saturday Night Live,” “The Espys,” “The Today Show,” “The Ellen Degeneres Show,” “American Grit,” “Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?” and the 2017 and 2018 “Kids Choice Awards.”

John appeared in the 2021 Super Bowl commercial for the Mountain Dew Major Melon campaign. The year prior he appeared alongside Jimmy Fallon in a Michelob Ultra Super Bowl spot. In October 2020, John made his debut as the voice of Honda in a campaign that launched during the NBA Finals. For the second year, John has partnered with Experian in their multi-spot

campaign for their financial product Experian Boost. John has also partnered with Hefty for more than four years as the spokesperson for their Hefty Ultra Strong trash bags.

On April 6, 2021, John published two books: Do Your Best Everyday To Do Your Best Everyday, a collection of inspirational quotes geared for children, and Be A Work In Progress, a collection aimed at adults. John is also the #1 New York Times best-selling author of the Elbow Grease picture books, a series inspired by the lessons he learned about hard work, perseverance, and teamwork from growing up with four brothers.

John has been the face of the WWE for more than a decade, and in that time has built a brand worth more than $100 million for the WWE. Vince McMahon has called John the Babe Ruth of the WWE.

John devotes much of his time and energy working on behalf of numerous charitable causes. He is Make-A-Wish's most requested wish granter and the only celebrity to grant more than 600 wishes. John is a longtime supporter of the U.S. military, recently recognized by Uso Metro as the recipient of their 2016 Legacy of Achievement Award. He is committed to Susan G. Komen and has helped raise more than $1.6 million for breast cancer research and awareness. He also recently starred in Ad Council's Love Has No Labels campaign, 'We Are America' to further the message of acceptance and love for all communities across the United States.

LIL REL HOWERY (Marcus) is a comedian, actor, writer, and producer. You might have seen him in the biggest Netflix movie in history, "Bird Box," or starring alongside Eric Andre in the new hit comedy "Bad Trip." Rel hosts NBC's new game show "Small Fortune." You can also see him in "Judas and the Black Messiah," opposite Daniel Kaluuya, who won the Oscar® as Best Supporting Actor for the film.

Rel's breakout role as TSA agent Rod Williams in the Oscar®-winning "Get Out" ushered Howery into superstar status. Winner of the Best Comedic Performance in a Movie at the MTV Movie & Television Awards, nominated for an IMAGE Award for Best Supporting Actor, and crowned Bernie Mac Comedy King of the Year, Howery is experiencing success at a rate bestowed upon few in Hollywood's history.

Howery executive produced and starred in his own Fox sitcom, "Rel." He also starred opposite Sandra Bullock and Trevante Rhodes in "Bird Box," which smashed Netflix viewership records when it premiered in December 2019. His next film, "Brittany Runs a Marathon," won the Audience Award at Sundance and was quickly acquired by Amazon for wide release. Howery currently stars opposite Ryan Reynolds in this summer's "Free Guy." You can see Lil Rel opposite Issa Rae in "The Photograph"; opposite Kevin Hart in "Fatherhood"; and opposite Ben Affleck in "Deep Water." In 2018, Howery played the lead role in the film "Uncle Drew," and guest-starred alongside Issa Rae in HBO's "Insecure." Lil Rel starred in the critically acclaimed NBC comedy series "The Carmichael Show" as Jerrod Carmichael's brother Bobby. Rel also was an executive producer, wrote and starred in the "gleefully absurd" (Chicago Sun Times) weekly

sketch comedy show “Friends of the People” on TruTV. Rel’s first hour standup special, “RELevent,” premiered in 2015 on Comedy Central. The hour was executive produced by Kevin Hart and was named one of “The 10 Best Stand-Up Specials of 2015” by Vulture. His second special, “Live in Crenshaw,” premiered on HBO in 2019 and was rated #1 Best Comedy Special of 2019 by Vulture

YVONNE ORJI (Emily) gives a knockout performance as Issa Rae’s best friend and fan favorite Molly on the HBO comedy series, “Insecure.” Her stellar work this season garnered her an Emmy® nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

Yvonne’s one-hour stand-up special for HBO, “Momma, I Made It“ premiered June 6th. It was shot in the two places Yvonne called home while growing up, Washington DC and Nigeria. Prior to the taping, she embarked on a domestic tour which included sold-out shows in New York and Los Angeles. She has opened for Chris Rock in a number of venues across the country including Madison Square Garden and the Barclays.

In September 2018, Yvonne made her feature film debut in Universal’s “Night School” alongside Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish. She is also the co-host of the podcast “Jesus & Jollof” alongside Luvvie Ajayi.

Outside of her creative work, Orji is dedicated to her charitable efforts. In 2008 she spent six months working in post-conflict Liberia with Population Services International (PSI), an NGO that utilizes social marketing in the adoption of healthy behaviors. While in Liberia, she worked with a group of talented youth to help build a mentoring program as well as a weekly talk show that helped educate and prevent teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. Orji has brought her work with the youth community back to the states, where she is currently involved with (RED) campaigns and faith-based youth ministries.

Her debut book, *Bamboozled by Jesus: How God Tricked Me Into the Life of My Dreams*, was released May 25 by Hachette Book Group.

In addition to Yvonne's work on camera, she is executive producing an autobiographical comedy entitled “First Gen’” which is currently in development at Disney+.

MEREDITH HAGNER (Kyla) plays Portia on the critically acclaimed HBO Max series “Search Party,” a performance Vanity Fair hailed as “brilliant”. She can also currently be seen in the feature “Palm Springs,” directed by Andy Siara and Max Barbakow, produced by The Lonely Island. The film premiered at Sundance last year and sold for a record-setting deal to Neon and Hulu.

Meredith recently voiced the role of Barbara the sex doll on Quibi's comedy series, "Dummy," opposite Anna Kendrick.

Previously, Meredith starred opposite Elizabeth Banks in the superhero horror, "Brightburn," directed by David Yarovesky and produced by James Gunn and Kenneth Huang. She also starred in the independent film "Folk Hero & Funny Guy," which debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2016. Meredith's TV credits also include the critically acclaimed comedy series "Veep" for HBO, FX's "Louie," and "Younger" on TV Land.

Originally from North Carolina, Meredith now lives in Los Angeles and loves writing and playing folk music.

ROBERT WISDOM (Harold) will recur in the Apple+ series "Black Bird" alongside Taron Edgerton, Paul Walter Hauser and Ray Liotta. He will have a great supporting role alongside Michael B. Jordan in Sony's "Journal for Jordan," which Denzel Washington will direct. He also stars as a lead role on Marvel's "Helstrom" for Hulu, and recently wrapped a series regular role on "The Alienist" opposite Daniel Brühl, Dakota Fanning and Luke Evans. He also recurred on the HBO series "Watchmen" and "Ballers."

He was recently in the independent film "Beasts of Burden," opposite Daniel Radcliffe and Grace Gummer. Before that, he had a lead role in "Live Cargo," directed by Logan Sandler, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. He was also the lead of "Storytelling" for director Todd Solondz and New Line, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Moviegoers also know Wisdom for his roles in such films as "The Dark Knight Rises," "Ray," and "Face/Off." Wisdom starred in the Netflix series "Flaked," with Will Arnett, and was earlier a series regular on ABC's "Nashville" opposite Connie Britton and Hayden Panettiere. His many television credits also include starring roles on HBO's critically acclaimed series "The Wire" and the third season of FOX's "Prison Break."

Over the last few years, **ANDREW BACHELOR (Gabe)**, better known as "King Bach," has quickly parlayed fom being one of the most influential names on the internet (with a total following 56.03 million fans and growing) to being an in-demand actor, producer and content creator. Andrew's hilarious brand of comedy has spawned national catchphrases, captured a global audience, and has launched him into the entertainment industry as a bonafide "one to watch."

On the film side, Andrew starred in Netflix's science fiction adventure film, "Rim of the World" which follows four misfit teenagers who become unlikely allies when their summer camp experience is cut short by an alien invasion. Andrew shines as their camp counselor, Logan. "Rim of the World" premiered on May 24, 2019. Andrew can most recently be seen in Netflix's comedy film, "Coffee and Kareem" alongside Taraji P. Henson, Ed Helms and Betty Gilpin, Netflix's horror film "The Babysitter: Killer Queen" alongside Jenna Ortega, Samara Weaving,

and Bella Thorne, the Netflix romcom, “Holidate” alongside Emma Roberts and Kristin Chenoweth. Andrew can also recently be seen in the Netflix television series “Sneakerheads” opposite Allen Maldonado and Jearnest Corchado.

In 2017, Andrew starred and served as an executive producer in Lionsgate’s comedy, “Where’s The Money” opposite Kat Graham, Terry Crews, Retta, Mike Epps, and Method Man. Additional film credits for Andrew include Mike Epps’ “Meet The Blacks,” 50 Shades of Black” alongside Marlon Wayans and a slew of Netflix hit films: “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before,” “The Babysitter” and “When We First Met.”

On the television front, Andrew can be seen in IFC’s new variety sketch series, “Sherman’s Showcase” which is based off of classic shows like “Soul Train,” “Solid Gold” and “Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-in.” Executive produced by John Legend, the series is hosted by Sherman McDaniels (Bashir Salahuddin), as he takes viewers through time via music and comedy drawn from the 40-year library of a legendary (but fictional) musical variety show. “Sherman’s Showcase” premieres on July 31, 2019.

Additional television credits include “Dead House” for Laugh Out Loud which he directed and executive produced alongside Kevin Hart, “Easy” (Netflix), “Workaholics” (Comedy Central), “Resident Advisors” (HULU), “Black Jesus” (Adult Swim), “Key and Peele” (Comedy Central), “The Mindy Project” (FOX), “Wild ’N Out” (MTV), “Angie Tribeca” (TBS), and recurring on “House of Lies” (Showtime).

On the music side, Andrew released his new comedy single, “HTH” accompanied by a music video on May 31, 2019. The single was a collaboration between Andrew, Poo Bear (“Caught Up,” “What Do You Mean”), and producer Tommy Brown (“Dangerous Woman”), with the music video being directed by Andrew. It is a follow-up to his single, “Say Daddy” featuring King Los which was released in February 2019. He is set to release a comedy EP later this year.

Born in Canada and raised in the U.S., Andrew graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Business in 2010. After graduation he moved to California to pursue one of his greatest passions, a career in acting, taking classes at the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles. Andrew’s ambitious desires led him to establish his own production company, Bach Enterprises where he produced, directed, and performed in several projects including a short film Agent Steele which was featured in NBC’s “Dateline“ in September 2011.

Andrew got his start producing sketches on YouTube (on his channel Bachelors’ Pad TV) where his audience grew to over 3 million subscribers. The sketches were costly to produce, so Andrew searched for alternative ways to share content, which led to his discovery of Vine. In a few short years, he rose to be one of the most-followed people on Vine with 15 million subscribers and over 5 billion views. His other social media channels also flourished, with tens of millions of people following his content. While being an entertainer is Andrew’s passion, he also is very involved with charitable organizations. In 2003, Andrew founded The RuJohn Foundation, which is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide the necessary tools for

education to rural and inner-city schools throughout Jamaica and the United States. The foundation also organizes annual youth-focused financial literary workshops, sports camps led by professional athletes, and acting workshops led by successful actors and entertainers.

Andrew has been named one of the Top Influencers by Forbes and Time Magazine, he received the 2015 Streamy Award for Viner of the Year, 2016 Shorty Award for Viner of the Year, and was nominated for multiple 2017 Streamy Awards for Storyteller of the Year and Collaboration, winning Storyteller of the Year. He currently holds the Guinness World Record for the most followed account on Vine.

LYNN WHITFIELD (Suzanne) portrays Lady Mae Greenleaf on OWN's hit drama series "Greenleaf," for which she won the NAACP Image Award as Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series in both 2019 and 2020. She earned the 1991® Emmy Award as Best Actress in a Miniseries or Special for her starring role in "The Josephine Baker Story," winning the NAACP Image Award that year as well. She has won additional NAACP Image Awards for "Touched by An Angel," "The Planet of Junior Brown," "Dangerous Evidence: The Lori Jackson Story," and "Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams Story."

A third-generation graduate of Washington, DC's Howard University, Whitfield began her career guest-starring in episodes of popular television drama series "Hill Street Blues," "Cagney & Lacey," "Mike Hammer" and "St. Elsewhere," then went on to star in made-for-television movies and miniseries, including "The Women of Brewster Place," "A Triumph of the Heart: The Ricky Bell Story" and "Stompin' at the Savoy," among many others. Whitfield made her film debut starring with Dan Ackroyd in "Doctor Detroit," and counts "The Slugger's Wife," "Silverado," "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate," "Eve's Bayou," "Madea's Family Reunion," "The Women" and "Mama I Want to Sing" among her more than 40 feature films.

Whitfield starred in the Aaron Spelling drama series "Heartbeats" as well as in "The Cosby Mysteries," and remains in demand as a guest actress, with recent roles in "The Resident," "Mistresses," "How To Get Away with Murder" and "Without a Trace," among many more.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

CLAY TARVER (Director/Writer) has been a screenwriter for over 20 years. He was Executive Producer of HBO's "Silicon Valley" and won the Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Writing Episodic Comedy in 2016 for "Sand Hill Shuffle".

His feature credits include "Joyride," which he wrote with JJ Abrams. He also has uncredited work on such films as "Charlie's Angels," "Idiocracy" and many others. In addition, Clay has written pieces for the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

Prior to his career in film, Clay was a founding member of Matador recording artist Chavez. He graduated from Harvard College in 1988 and lives in Los Angeles.

TOM MULLEN (Writer) prefers to think of his professional past as "intentionally diverse" instead of his parents' preferred term: checkered. A veteran who served as a military journalist in support of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, Tom has a degree in journalism from The University of Montana (though he still has nightmares that he's several credits shy). While in college, Tom served as editor of the campus daily, The Kaimin, and once told his college advisor that he wanted to be a comedy writer in Los Angeles, only to be informed that comedy writers are, in fact, "piling up like firewood out there." Easily cowed, Tom instead took a job as a reporter for The Associated Press and worked in a number of corporate communications roles before he and his brother, Tim, wrote a teen comedy about their Montana upbringing called "Deers & Beers" that they sold to The Montecito Picture Company. In addition to screenwriting, Tom works in tech as the head of content for a Santa Monica-based startup. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Ashlee, and their two dogs, Finny and Lola.

TIM MULLEN (Writer) has a bachelor's degree in business and information systems from The University of Montana. The day after graduation, he moved to Los Angeles and began working as a software engineer while writing comedy screenplays on the side. He eventually convinced his brother, Tom, to ignore his college advisor and move to L.A. to join him in the endeavor. Together, the Mullens have written and sold scripts for studios like Dreamworks, Columbia and 20th Century, and for stars like Sandra Bullock, Dwayne Johnson and Chris Pratt. Tim is also a tech entrepreneur and Co-Founder of SmartComment, a leading community engagement platform. Before starting SmartComment in 2013, Tim created software for the California UC system, National Captioning Institute and many popular e-commerce applications. When not working, he is a husband and dad who enjoys Dodger baseball, golf and live music. Tim lives in Malibu with his family. To date, his greatest achievement remains being named class clown during his senior year of high school.

JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN (Writer) and **JOHN FRANCIS DALEY (Writer)** have written, produced and directed films totaling nearly $2 billion in worldwide box office. These include "Spider-Man: Homecoming," "Horrible Bosses," "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2," "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," 2015's "VacaPon" reboot and the 2018 hit comedic thriller, "Game Night."
In 2007, Daley and Goldstein sold their first film script, "The $40,000 Man" to New Line Cinema. That script landed on the Hollywood "Black List," and launched the team's screenwriting career. Goldstein and Daley's 2011 comedy, "Horrible Bosses," earned over $200 million at the worldwide box office and became one of the highest-grossing R-rated comedies of all time. In 2015, Goldstein and Daley made their feature directorial debut with "VacaPon," which they also

wrote. The duo co-wrote the screenplay for “Spider-Man: Homecoming”, which has grossed close to $900 million worldwide. Most recently, they wrote and co-directed the comedy, “Game Night,” starring Rachel McAdams and Jason Bateman, which earned over $117 million worldwide.

Goldstein and Daley are currently co-writing and will direct the feature film “Dungeons & Dragons” for Paramount and eOne.

TODD GARNER, p.g.a. (Producer), the head of Broken Road Productions, is a veteran producer and Hollywood creative executive with a remarkable gift for creating and nurturing mainstream, commercial motion pictures. In various capacities throughout his career, Garner has developed, overseen, executive produced or produced well over 170 movies, many of them major hits for their respective studios. Formerly a founding partner of Revolution Studios and before that co-head of production at Walt Disney Studios, Garner founded Broken Road Productions in summer 2005. In the last 16 years, Broken Road has produced 25 movies and three TV series.

After producing the runaway hit “Paul Blart: Mall Cop” and its sequel, which combined grossed over $290 million in worldwide box office, Broken Road produced “Knight and Day” for Fox grossing over $261 million worldwide, MGM & Sony’s “Zookeeper,” which grossed $170 million, and “Into the Storm” for New Line, which grossed over $161 million worldwide. In November 2018, Screen Gems’ “The Possession of Hannah Grace,” starring Shay Mitchell and Stana Katic, finished with a stellar $45M worldwide on a $6M budget. Released summer 2019 was New Line Cinema’s “Tag,” starring Jon Hamm, Ed Helms, Jake Johnson and Isla Fisher, and February 2019 featured the release of “Isn’t It Romantic**“** starring Rebel Wilson, Liam Hemsworth, Adam DeVine and Priyanka Chopra. Most recently, Garner released the Universal drama “All My Life” in December 2020.

Garner’s most recent feature film is “Mortal Kombat,” which was released both in theaters and on HBO Max on April 23, 2021 and opened in the #1 spot at the box office. Earlier this year, he released the Netflix sitcom “The Crew” starring Kevin James. The Bert Kreischer series “The Cabin” premiered on Netflix in October 2020.

Garner was an Executive Producer on films such as “XXX,” “Anger Management” and “13 Going On 30.” He joined Revolution as a partner in May 2000 and was responsible for overseeing all aspects of development and production for the company’s motion pictures during its remarkable first five years. During his tenure, Garner oversaw such hit Revolution films as “Black Hawk Down,” “Punch Drunk Love” and “Hellboy.”

Todd currently hosts “The Producer’s Guide: Todd Garner & Hollywood’s Elite,” which takes an in depth look at the movie business and what it takes to be a producer in today’s world.
Link to “The Producer’s Guide: Todd Garner & Hollywood’s Elite” below:
https://www.podcastone.com/the-producers-guide-with-todd-garner

TIMOTHY M. BOURNE, p.g.a. (Producer) is a New York City-born filmmaker, who got his start working with film icons Woody Allen, Penny Marshall, and Mike Nichols on prominent films including Oscar®-nominated classics “Working Girl,” “Hannah and Her Sisters” and “Awakenings.” Other notable films with these filmmakers include “Big,” “A League of Their Own,” “A Midsummer Night’s Sex Comedy,” “Zelig,” “Broadway Danny Rose,” “Radio Days,” “Renaissance Man,” “The Preacher’s Wife” and “Riding In Cars with Boys.”

As Producer and Executive Producer, Bourne’s additional credits span a wide range of genres, and include, most notably “Drumline,” “Mr. 3000,” “ATL,” “Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins,” “The Blind Side,” “Lottery Ticket,” “Footloose,” “Joyful Noise,” “Keeping up with the Joneses,” “Father Figures,” “Diary Of A Wimpy Kid, “The Long Haul,” the critically-acclaimed “Love, Simon,” directed by Greg Berlanti, George Tillman Jr.’s adaptation of the New York Times best-selling young adult novel “The Hate U Give,” “Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween” and the “Fear Street” trilogy based on R.L. Stine’s books of the same name.

Bourne makes his home in Wilmington, North Carolina.

STEVE PINK (Executive Producer) began his career by writing and co-producing the films “Grosse Pointe Blank” and “High Fidelity.”

Steve went on to write and/or produce a handful of films, including “Knight and Day,” starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz.

Steve directed the feature films “Hot Tub Time Machine” (John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke), “About Last Night” (Kevin Hart, Regina Hall, Michael Ealy, Joy Bryant), and “Accepted” (Justin Long, Jonah Hill, and Blake Lively).

He also just wrapped the indie feature “The Wheel” shot last summer in a Covid bubble set to be released this year.

Steve has also directed multiple television pilots, as well as a plethora of television episodes, including “Santa Clarita Diet,” starring Drew Barrymore and Timothy Olyphant.

He most recently directed episodes of “Wayne,” the critically-acclaimed series on Amazon. His more recent work in commercial directing includes T-Mobile Superbowl campaign spots featuring Anthony Anderson and his mother Doris Bowman.

SEAN ROBINS (Executive Producer) launched SR-48 in November of 2020 to develop and produce film and television that speak to his heart.

"Savage Land" is slated to start production this fall in Australia with Marc Furmie directing with "Grace" starting in January with Wayne Roberts directing and Susan Sarandon and Edgar Ramirez staring.

Projects lined up include comedies with Kevin Hart, Kate McKinnon, Lauren Lapkus, Seann William Scott, LaMorne Morris, Marlon Wayans and Rel Howery as well as more serious fare with Josh Gad, Olga Kurylenko, and Mark Wahlberg amongst others. On the television side, projects include working with Zachary Levi, Seth Green, Patrick Schwarzenegger and Blake Anderson.

Robins was a partner at Broken Road for 14 years and with the company for 16. Robins helped steer Broken Road's slate including films such as "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" and "Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2," "Knight and Day," "Zookeeper," "Here Comes The Boom," "Sorcerer's Apprentice," "Jack and Jill," "Into the Storm," "The Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse," "True Memoirs of an International Assassin," "Naked," "The Possession Of Hannan Grace," "Tag," "Isn't It Romantic," "Haunt," "Playing with Fire," "All My Life" and the forthcoming "Mortal Kombat." On the television side, Broken Road produced MTV's cooking show "Snackoff" as well as Bert Kreischer's "The Cabin" and "The Crew" with Kevin James, both airing on Netflix.

Starting at George Clooney's Maysville Pictures, and then running Robert Lawrence Productions for seven years, Robins has used his writing degrees both as a Producer and as a writer, having optioned many of his scripts in the past.

Robins is a graduate of Northwestern University and participated in the Peace Corps Partnership for Service Learning in Kingston, Jamaica. There he worked for the Jamaican Human Rights Council while taking classes at the University of Technology.

TIM SUHRSTEDT, ASC (Director of Photography) body of work includes a wide range of films that vary from critically-acclaimed independents to studio pictures. Such works include "Little Miss Sunshine," "Office Space," "Mystic Pizza," "Lucky," "The Wedding Singer," "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure"and "Always Be My Maybe," to name a few.

He has also worked on Max Mayer's "As Cool As I Am," starring Claire Danes, Diablo Cody's feature directorial debut "Paradise" and Peter Farelly's and Elizabeth Banks' "Movie 43" starring Emma Stone and Kate Winslet.

Additionally, he has just finished season six of the critically acclaimed HBO hit "Silicon Valley" with long-time collaborator director Mike Judge.

AARON OSBORNE (Production Designer) is a dynamic Emmy®-award-winning production designer of film, television, and theatre. Most recently he designed the sets for the Fox Studio film "Love, Simon" and the Marvel television series "Runaway," as well as the series "Looking

for Alaska." Other feature film credits include "Keanu," with Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele; "The Good Lie," starring Reese Witherspoon;"Kiss Kiss Bang Bang," starring Robert Downey Jr.; "Another Day in Paradise"; "The Losers"; "I Am Sam"; "Sex Drive"; "Dumb and Dumber To"; the George C. Wolfe film "You're Not You," starring Hillary Swank; and both "That's My Boy" and "Grown Ups 2" with Adam Sandler. He worked with the Wayans Brothers on several of their projects, including "Don't Be a Menace in South Central While Drinking Your Juice in the Hood" and "Dance Flick."

In television, Aaron created the signature look for many acclaimed series, designing the pilots for "Constantine," "Community," "Jean-Claude Van Johnson," among others. In 2003, Aaron accepted the Emmy® Award for Best Production Design for "Without A Trace."

Like many in the film community, Aaron's first love is theater, whether designing the sets, treading the boards, or directing. Having experienced early success with his theater work in New York, Aaron brought his critically-acclaimed theatrical extravaganza Theatre "Carnivale" to Los Angeles. There, he and his troupe had a tremendously successful three-year-run, consistently earning "Picks of the Week" from the LA Weekly. On the heels of that triumph was an NEA Grant for his play "Acid Whorehouse," produced for New York's Franklin Furnace Theater and Los Angeles' Tamarind Theater. Additionally, Aaron received the LA Arts Endowment Grant for his piece "Peter Pandemonium" produced at LACE.

After relocating permanently to Los Angeles, Aaron segued into production design, having the auspicious honor of working under the tutelage of cult director/producer Roger Corman. It was at Corman Studios where Aaron, like his heroes Francis Ford Coppola, Martin Scorsese, John Sayles, and James Cameron before him, received the equivalent of a "Master's Degree" in film production.

Growing up in Texas, **EVAN HENKE (Film Editor)** knew from a young age he would one day work in the film industry. A film major at the University of Texas at Austin, he packed up everything following graduation and set out for LA. Starting as an Assistant Editor, he worked his way up on such diverse films as "The Muppets," "Norbit" and as First Assistant on Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds."

Evan's big break came on the film "The Green Hornet," where he earned additional editor credit. Working across mediums, editing both film and television, Evan cut the Sundance standout "For a Good Time, Call…," followed by the final season of HBO's hit comedy, "Eastbound and Down." In between, he edited the highly acclaimed short "Curfew," which went on to win the 2013 Oscar® for Best Short Film.

Propelled by these successes, Evan went on to co-edit high-profile films such as the controversial James Franco and Seth Rogen starred, "The Interview," followed by the Sacha Baron Cohen starring and Louis Leterrier-directed action/comedy "The Brothers Grimsby" for

Sony. He cut the New Line comedy “The House,” starring Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler, as well as the DreamWorks holiday comedy “Office Christmas Party” and Netflix’s “Game Over, Man!”

His most recent projects include the Jonathan Levine film “Long Shot,” starring Seth Rogen and Charlize Theron in the Netflix holiday film “Let it Snow.” Evan is honored to have collaborated with some of the industry’s top creative talent over the years.

Unexpected texture, sounds and a signature musical personality are the hallmarks of British film & theatre composer **ROLFE KENT (Music Composer and Conductor),** who has scored more than 60 films, including Academy Award® nominated “Up in the Air” (for which he won a Golden Satellite award), “Sideways” (for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe® and Critics Choice Award in 2007), “Labor Day,” “Bad Words,” “Dom Hemingway,” “About Schmidt,” “Election,” “Mean Girls,” “Legally Blonde” and “Legally Blonde II,” “Wedding Crashers,” “The Matador,” “Reign Over Me,” “The Hunting Party” and “Thank You for Smoking.” Kent also composed the Emmy®-nominated main title theme for the Showtime hit “Dexter.” In 2012, he received the Richard Kirk Award for career achievement.
Born in England into a non-musical family, Kent intuitively felt at age 12 that he wanted to be a film composer, although his early musical training was brief and not so formal. Citing Jarre’s “Lawrence of Arabia” and Morricone’s “The Good, The Bad and the Ugly” as inspirations, Kent took the advice of an early music teacher to avoid classical study that would dampen his enthusiasm and instead follow an entirely enthusiasm and curiosity driven path. While studying Psychology at the University of Leeds in Yorkshire, Kent’s musical theatre career was casually begun at a dance club when the director of a play, Peter Morgan, offered him a chance to “do” the music. His jump start was his composition for a stage musical “Gross” at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, a springboard for Authors, composers and performers.

In the confines of his musically busy studio, one can immediately see why his musical personality is as distinct and his own. With an innately curious and adventurous spirit that is audible through his embrace of multi-cultural musical styles, Kent has developed a style that is not only distinct, but indicative of his aversion to the-anticipated-score in tone, texture and rhythm. The walls are lined with many familiar and many more unfamiliar instruments, gingerly handled and gleefully demonstrated for their sonic qualities. Among his collection are the Indonesian percussion instrument the angklung, the shawm (first used in military maneuvers as a psychological weapon), the melodica, used for the light, soothing effect in Kent’s jazz-infused score for his Golden Globe®-nominated “Sideways,” and an instrument he discovered and cannot name that sounds like the world’s beaches at their most romantic high tide... combined. Kent has the distinction of attracting and sustaining relationships with directors as popular and diverse as Alexander Payne, Mark Waters, Jason Reitman, Burr Steers, John S Baird and Richard Shepard. He is also the founder of LA immersive theatre company The Unmarked Door, and a member of the British theatre company The Naiads.

SALVADOR PEREZ (Costume Designer) is an accomplished and versatile costume designer, working in many genres—from feature film and television movies to television series, commercials and red carpet gowns.

Born and raised in Central California, Perez moved to Los Angeles to attend The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, planning on a career in fashion design, but fate had another path for him. An accomplished stitcher, his talents were soon discovered by costume designers who took him away from the fashion industry. He first made costumes, then became a costume manufacturing foreman and assistant designer on films like "Titanic," "The Flintstones" and "Barb Wire." With his vast knowledge of clothing construction and manufacturing, Perez was also sought out by the J. Peterman Catalogue to design and develop their Movie Legends Line. When working on the Mindy Project, he produced a fashion jewelry line with Bauble Bar, and a signature coat line with Gilt.com.

As a costume designer, Perez has taken his experience and applied it to creating characters on projects as diverse as the hit TV series "The Mindy Project" (where he earned an Emmy® nomination for costume design), "Castle," "Veronica Mars," the Hulu series "Four Weddings and a Funeral," Netflix's "Never Have I Ever" and feature films like "Pitch Perfect" 1, 2 & 3, "Think Like a Man" 1 & 2, "Men of Honor," "Drumline" and "Goosebumps 2."

Perez's approach is highly detailed and considers every aspect of a character's personality while telling the story through costume. Knowing how clothes should fit and be made, he has a unique ability to fit and tailor clothes to make actors look their best. He brings his love for his art with him to every fitting, every shopping trip, and every day on set.

Perez's passion for costume design and the Film & Television Industry was recognized by the members of the Costume Designers Guild, who elected him President of their organization now in his 3rd term. Salvador's recent project is a collaboration with Mindy Kaling on HBO Max's "Sex Lives of College Girls."